

'eal his tastes and habits: his unaffected joys in woods & trees —'I began to long to be a woodman, to pass a Let, and contemplative, and virtuous life, amid the deep & beautiful scenery of forests' ; his love of men's society —'For a long time, I could not detect i reason why I was so charmed with Egyptian life. last I recollected that I had recurred, after a long rangement, to the cheerful influence of women'; the ddents of composition—'After writing a book my mind rays makes a great spring.' 'I can write only in the irning. It is then I execute with facility all that I ve planned the preceding eve.' 'It is my habit to itrive in my head the complete work before I have ;ourse to the pen which is to execute it. I do not think it meditation can be too long, or execution too rapid.' • in the Polonius-like advice of Baron Fleming to his son,

Read French authors. Eead Eochefoucauld. The French, iters are the finest in the world, for they clear our heads all ridiculous ideas. . . . Do not talk too much at jsent; do not *try* to talk. But whenever you speak, >ak with self-possession. . . . Never argue. In soci-^r nothing must be discussed; give only' results. . . . Ik to women, talk to women as much as you can. This the best school. This is the way to gain, fluency, because a need not care what you say, and had better not be isible. They, too, will rally you on many points, and as yy are women you will not be offended. Nothing is of so ich. importance and of so much use to a young man enter-j life as to be well criticised by women. . . . Eead history, nothing but biography, for that is life without 3ory.

Or, again, in half-conscious utterances of his deeper .f : '

There is that within me
which may yet mould e mind
and fortunes of my race'; 'the
breath of man s never
influenced me much, for I
depend more upon yrself than
upon others'; 'I contrasted the
smiling difference of his public
appearance with the- agonies
ambition which it was my
doom alone to witness.'⁷